We claim:

1. A composition comprising an antigen, a saponin adjuvant, and an excipient, wherein the composition reduces the *in vitro* lytic effect of the saponin adjuvant.

2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the saponin adjuvant is a substantially pure saponin adjuvant.

3. The composition according to claim 2, wherein the substantially pure saponin adjuvant is QS-7 or QS-21.

4. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the saponin adjuvant is a heterogenous saponin adjuvant.

5. The composition according to claim 4, wherein the heterogeneous saponin adjuvant is Quil A.

6. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the antigen is a peptide, a protein, a polysaccharide, a lipid, or a nucleic acid encoding the peptide or protein.

7. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the excipient is a nonionic surfactant.

8. The composition according to claim 7, wherein the nonionic surfactant is a Polysorbate.

9. The composition according to claim 8, wherein the Polysorbate is Polysorbate 20, Polysorbate 40, Polysorbate 60, or Polysorbate 80.

10. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the excipient is a cyclodextrin.

11. The composition according to claim 10, wherein the cyclodextrin is

β-cyclodextrin.

12. The composition according to claim 11, wherein the β-cyclodextrin is hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin.

13. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further maintains the maximum adjuvant activity of QS-21.

14. The composition according to claim 13, wherein the saponin adjuvant is a substantially pure saponin adjuvant.

15. The composition according to claim 14, wherein the substantially pure saponin adjuvant is QS-7 or QS-21.

16. The composition according to claim 13, wherein the saponin adjuvant is a heterogenous saponin adjuvant.

17. The composition according to claim 16, wherein the heterogeneous saponin adjuvant is Quil A.

18. The composition according to claim 13, wherein the antigen is a peptide, a protein, a polysaccharide, a lipid, or a nucleic acid encoding the peptide or protein.

19. The composition according to claim 13, wherein the excipient is a nonionic surfactant.

20. The composition according to claim 19, wherein the nonionic surfactant is a Polysorbate.

21. The composition according to claim 20, wherein the Polysorbate is Polysorbate 20, Polysorbate 40, Polysorbate 60, or Polysorbate 80.

22. The composition according to claim 13, wherein the excipient is a cyclodextrin.

23. The composition according to claim 22, wherein the cyclodextrin is β-cyclodextrin.

24. The composition according to claim 23, wherein the cyclodextrin is hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin.

25. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further has an increased stability.

26. The composition according to claim 25, wherein the saponin adjuvant is a substantially pure saponin adjuvant.

27. The composition according to claim 26, wherein the substantially pure saponin adjuvant is QS-7 or QS-21.

28. The composition according to claim 25, wherein the saponin adjuvant is a heterogenous saponin adjuvant.

29. The composition according to claim 28, wherein the heterogeneous saponin adjuvant is Quil A.

30. The composition according to claim 25, wherein the antigen is a peptide, a protein, a polysaccharide, a lipid, or a nucleic acid encoding the peptide or protein.

31. The composition according to claim 25, wherein the excipient is a nonionic surfactant.

32. The composition according to claim 31, wherein the nonionic surfactant is a Polysorbate.

33. The composition according to claim 26, wherein the Polysorbate is Polysorbate 20, Polysorbate 40, Polysorbate 60, or Polysorbate 80.

34. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition

further improves the tolerance to saponin adjuvant associated pain in an individual to whom it is administered.

35. The composition according to claim 34, wherein the saponin adjuvant is a substantially pure saponin.

36. The composition according to claim 35, wherein the substantially pure saponin adjuvant is QS-7 or QS-21.

37. The composition according to claim 34, wherein the saponin adjuvant is a heterogenous saponin adjuvant.

38. The composition according to claim 37, wherein the heterogeneous saponin adjuvant is Quil A.

39. The composition according to claim 34, wherein the antigen is a peptide, a protein, a polysaccharide, a lipid or a nucleic acid encoding the peptide or protein.

40. The composition according to claim 34, wherein the excipient is a nonionic surfactant.

41. The composition according to claim 40, wherein the nonionic surfactant is a Polysorbate.

42. The composition according to claim 41, wherein the Polysorbate is Polysorbate 20, Polysorbate 40, Polysorbate 60, or Polysorbate 80.

43. The composition according to claim 34, wherein the excipient is a cyclodextrin.

44. The composition according to claim 43, wherein the cyclodextrin is β-cyclodextrin.

45. The composition according to claim 44, wherein the cyclodextrin is

hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin.